Steps for improvement of Small Scale and Mini Industries

1386. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh policy initiatives to explore cooperation of international agencies and developed friendly countries for development of small scale and mini industries sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the outcome of the initiatives; and

(c) the details of industries identified for economic cooperation country-wise and proposal formulated and finalised/under consideration and agreements signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing an International Cooperation Programme for promoting enterprise to enterprise cooperation between the Indian Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of other countries. In order to coordinate the efforts of various agencies/organisations in promoting exports from the Small Scale Sector and to evolve appropriate strategy in this regard, an "SSI Parternship and Promotion Committee" has been constituted.

The International cooperation Programme has helped SSIs in understanding the overseas markets and in accessing the latest technology etc.

(c) A cluster development programme for SSIs is being jointly implemented by the Ministry of SSI and ARI, Government of India and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) through Italian assistance. It has focussed on Cotton Knitwear, Textiles and Printing, Woolen and Acrylic Knitwear and Food Products. Two Memoranda of Understanding have been signed in July, 2000 between UNIDO and Ministry of SSI and ARI, Government of India for development of the toy and the stone industries. Further, hand-made paper, pottery, bee-keeping and coir industries are being developed with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme.

Business co-operation is being strengthened with a number of African countries for the development of the small industries for mutual benefit.